

December 19, 1999

Dear Deb,

Thanks for the thoughtful letter. Carol has been freaking out since I told her about my thoughts of leaving the job, but we talked it out and came up with a plan of attack. The guy I work for is a jerk - a young computer whiz in his 30s. As a manager, he'd make a great programmer. He gave me my annual evaluation and it was really awful. He criticized me for not being able to do stuff that I've not been trained to do and ignored my success at what I have done. I'm going to write a response to the evaluation and maybe have a meeting with the executive director. Part of the reason for the bad evaluation was that he lost out in a dispute about how something was going to be done. The users wanted it done one way and he was simply going to ignore them and do it his way. I was in the middle, trying to document it, and was incensed that I was sticking up for the user.

I've thought of asking for another job in the company, but that might not work out. What I can do is demand that he teach me to do what he expects me to do. They knew I didn't have the skills when they hired me, and although I went to a bunch of classes, they never involved me in the development of the systems he expects me to work on. I never had the opportunity to practice what I learned. They had me working on other stuff, and on that, I did well.

I will get 2 pensions when I'm 60, one from the State and one from MERS. I'll get medical insurance with my State pension, and that won't be jeopardized by what happens at MERS.

I wondered about that printer, too. I thought it was included in the price. I will look into it.

I thought you were going to be home for Christmas. We'll miss you.

Steve